<u>Claims</u>

- 1. A method for processing bank notes present as separate deposits, characterized in that the beginning and/or end of each deposit (1 to 4) is ascertained, the bank notes of each deposit (1 to 4) are fed into a separate carrier (71 to 74), and each carrier (71 to 74) transports the bank notes of one deposit (1 to 4) to processing.
- 2. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that information (I) of the deposits (1 to 4) is detected, and the detected information (I) of the deposits (1 to 4) is joined to the particular carrier (71 to 74) of a deposit (1 to 4).
- 3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that a deposit (1 to 4) is subdivided into subunits by feeding at least one separation card (TK), the separation card (TK) being recognized during processing of the bank notes so that the subunits of a deposit (1 to 4) can be brought to account.
- 4. A method according to any of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the deposits (1 to 4) are formed by one or more bundles of bank notes each having a band, the bands being removed from the bundles before the bank notes of the bundles are fed into the particular carrier (71 to 74).
- 5. A method according to claim 4, characterized in that the bands are stored in the order in which they appear in the deposits (1 to 4) and/or subunits, the bands are removed from storage after successful processing of the associated bank notes, and the bands are provided for a check and/or investigation after ascertainment of deviations in the deposits and/or subunits.
- 6. A method according to claim 4 or 5, characterized in that an image of each band is recorded and stored.
- 7. A method according to any of claims 3 to 6, characterized in that deviations occurring in subunits of a deposit (1 to 4) are balanced against each other.

- 8. A method according to any of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the deposits of a certain depositor are treated according to specifications coming from the depositor, the specifications being derived from the information (I).
- 9. An apparatus for processing bank notes present as separate deposits by means of a bank note processing machine (50 to 57) having a singler (50), a transport system (51), a checking device (52), a delivery device (53) and a control device (57), whereby a transport device (60) transports carriers (71 to 74) containing the deposits (1 to 4) to the singler (50), characterized by a sensor (62) for detecting the beginning and/or end of each deposit (1 to 4), a filling position at which the bank notes of each deposit (1 to 4) are fed into a separate carrier (71 to 74), each carrier (71 to 74) transporting the bank notes of one deposit to the singler (50) for processing.
- 10. An apparatus according to claim 9, characterized in that the sensor (62) for recognizing the beginning and/or the end (I3) detects information (I) of the deposits (1 to 4), and the detected information (I) of the deposits (1 to 4) is joined to the particular carrier (71 to 74) of a deposit (1 to 4), for which purpose a unique marking (81 to 84) of the carriers (71 to 74) is detected by a first sensor (61).
- 11. An apparatus according to claim 10, characterized in that a second sensor (61') is provided which detects the unique marking (81 to 84) of the carriers (71 to 74) for processing of the bank notes contained in the carriers (71 to 74) by the bank note processing machine (50 to 57).
- 12. An apparatus according to any of claims 9 to 11, characterized in that separation cards (TK) are to be fed at the filling position for subdividing the deposits (1 to 4), the separation cards (TK) being recognized by the checking device (52) so that an accounting for the bank notes of the deposits (1 to 4) can be subdivided.
- 13. An apparatus according to any of claims 9 to 12, characterized in that the deposits (1 to 4) are formed by one or more bundles of bank notes each having a band, the bands being removed from the bundles at the filling position before the bank notes of the bundles are fed into the particular carrier (71 to 74).

- 14. An apparatus according to claim 13, characterized in that a storage device (63) stores the bands in the order in which they appear in the deposits (1 to 4) and/or subunits, the storage device (63) removes (65) the bands after successful processing of the associated bank notes for disposal (67), and the storage device (63) provides bands after faulty processing of the deposits and/or subunits for a check and/or investigation (66).
- 15. An apparatus according to claim 13 or 14, characterized in that the sensor (62) produces an image of each band, said image being stored in the control device (57).